

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous scientific organisation with Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development has set up two mediumsize Planetaria in the country-one at Calicut and other at Nagpur attached to Science Centres in those places. In addition to these two Planetaria, the NCSM has also developed and distributed in-house small portable planetaria for astronomy education in different parts of the country.

Besides, Planetaria are also set up in different places by State Governments and Private Organisations, details of which are not maintained by NCSM.

(b) No proposal to set up any Planetaria in these districts of Bihar has been received by National Council of Science Museums.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Funds from Chavara Bridge to Kollam Bypass

3469. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala to utilise Rs. Two Crores, which are existing for Chavara bridge, for the construction of Kollam Bypass, Phase-II;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to accord permission for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be commenced on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to financial Constraints, the work of construction of Kollam Bypass Phase-II could not be included in the Annual Plan 1996-97.

(c) Does not arise.

Port at Narsapur in A.P.

3470. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop a rice/grain port at Narsapur in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether his Ministry has discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture the proposal for a rice port regarding its viability; and

(c) if so, the capital outlay involved and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The Central Government is not developing a rice/grain port at Narsapur in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The viability of a rice port at Narsapur has not been discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) Does not arise.

Engineering College/University in West Bengal

3471. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal had requested for opening of new engineering college/ Central university; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Neither the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) nor the University Grants Commission (UGC) has received any proposal from Government of West Bengal for opening any new Engineering College/Central University.

Withdrawal of Brigade

3472. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has decided to withdraw the Ninth Independent Brigade from the Barahoti Plains bordering China; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) Movement of Army units are decided based on operational requirements. These do not affect operational preparedness.

Increase in Defence Allocations

3473. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airforce has sought increased allocation of funds in order to counter the large allocation for defence made by Pakistan; and